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Inventors: Robert D. Kern et al
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REMARKS

Initially, it is noted that the Examiner has indicated that dependent claims 7-9, 16-18 and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their corresponding base claims and any intervening claims. As such, applicant has rewritten dependent claims 7, 16 and 23 as new independent claims 25, 26 and 27, respectively. It is believed that independent claims 25-27 are in proper form for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Claims 8-9 depend from independent claim 25 and further define a controller not shown or suggested in the prior art. It is believed that dependent claims 8-9 are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim and in view of the subject matter of each claim. Similarly, claims 17-18 depend from independent claim 26 and dependent claim 24 depends from independent claim 27. It is believed that dependent claims 17-18 and 24 are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim and in view of the subject matter of each claim.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 10-15 and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eaton et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,351,692 in view of Jordan, U.S. Patent No. 6,172,428. However, as hereinafter described, it is believed that such claims define over the cited references. As such, reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 defines controller for controlling a plurality of generator sets connectable to a load. Each generator set has the ability to be started and stopped and includes a generator communications link for connecting a generator set to a network. Each generator set also includes an engine and a generator driven by the engine to generate AC power having a magnitude and a power factor and an AC voltage having a magnitude and a frequency. The

controller includes a user interface for allowing a user to select each of the plurality of generator sets and to set values for predetermined operating parameters of each of the generator sets. In addition, a communications link is provided. The communications link is connectable to the network and transmits the user set values of the predetermined operating parameter to each selected generator set. As hereinafter described, neither of the cited references show or suggest a controller for controlling a plurality of generator sets. As such, it is believed that independent claim 1 defines over the cited references.

The Eaton et al. '692 patent is directed to a genset controller that is configurable for controlling a variety of types of gensets. However, there is nothing in the '692 reference to suggest the genset controller disclosed therein may be used to simultaneously control a plurality of gensets. Referring to Column 4, lines 4-8, it is contemplated to interconnect a generator set controller disclosed in the '692 patent to a single generator set. The genset controller can be located remotely from the genset (up to 40 feet) or attached to the genset directly by way of an engine harness. There is no suggestion in the '692 patent that the generator set controller can be interconnected to multiple generators for controlling the same.

Similarly, the Jordan '428 patent is directed to a digital control system and method for monitoring, acquiring data and controlling the operation of a generator set. Referring to Column 30, the Digital Control System disclosed in the '428 patent is intended to be used with a stationary gen-set or a mobile gen-set. However, nothing in the '428 patent shows or suggests a controller for controlling a plurality of generator sets as provided in independent claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that independent claim 1 defines over the cited references and passage to allowance is respectfully requested. Claims 2-6 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and further define a controller not shown or suggested in the prior art. It is believed that independent claims 2-6 are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim and in view of the subject matter of each claim.

Claim 10 defines a power generation system for providing electrical power. The power generation system includes a plurality of generator sets connectable to a load and to a network and user interface for allowing a user to select each of the plurality of generator sets and to set the values for the various operating parameters thereof. As heretofore described with respect to independent claim 1, neither of the cited references shows or suggests a power generation system having a plurality of generator sets and a user interface for controlling such plurality of generator sets. As such, it is believed that independent claim 10 defines over the cited references and passage to allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-15 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 10 and further define a power generation system not shown or suggested in the prior art. It is believed that claims 11-15 are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim and in view of the subject matter of each claim.

Finally, with respect to independent claim 19, a method is provided of managing the distribution of electrical power. The method includes the step of interconnecting a plurality of generator sets to a load and to a network in selecting each generator set. Thereafter, the various predetermined operating parameters of each selected generator set is set and those settings are transmitted to each selected generator set over the network. Once again, as described with respect to independent claims 1 and 10, none of the cited references shows or suggests interconnecting a plurality of generator sets to a network and controlling such generator sets over

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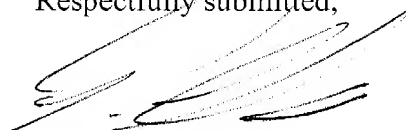
the network with a user interface. As such, it is believed that independent claim 19 defines over the cited references and passage to allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 20-22 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 19 and further define a method not shown or suggested in the prior art. It is believed that claims 20-22 are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim and in view of the subject matter of each claim.

Applicant believes that the present application with claims 1-6, 8-15, 17-22 and 24-27 is in proper form for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that no fees are necessary at this time. However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this or any other communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1170.

Respectfully submitted,



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